

Today is World Communion Sunday

Lord, we thank you for the gift of this global table where all are welcome, and none are strangers. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, we pray that you would make us one in you, regardless of our languages, cultures or circumstances. Amen.

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude Shall We Gather at the River Robert Hobby

As the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.

Call to Worship
Around the world people gather to break bread together.
We gather with them in heart and mind.
Around the world the broken body is made whole.
As part of that body, we join in its unity.
We who share in the banquet come eagerly to be fed.
Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty with the world.

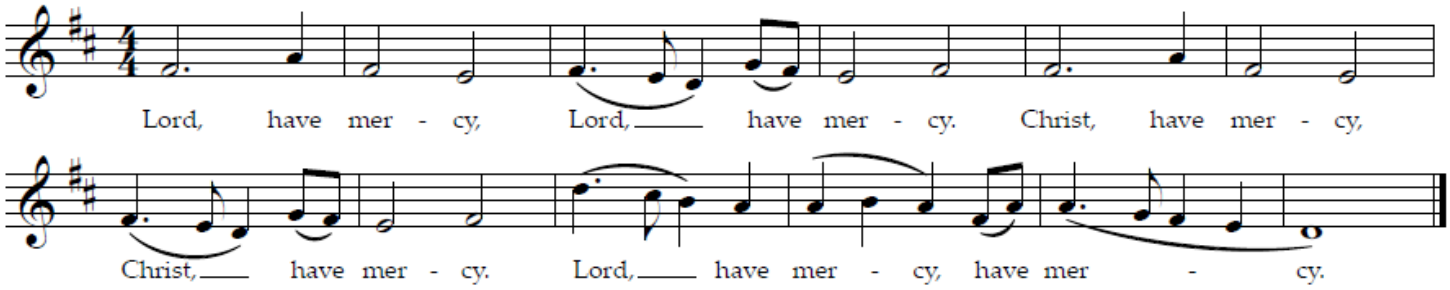
Praise and Adoration

***Opening Hymn #409** God Is Here! ABBOT'S LEIGH
(*Please stand, if you are able.)
1. All sing 2. Men only 3. Women only 4. All sing

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession Book of Common Worship
Loving God, through Jesus Christ you taught us, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly treasures, hoarding up possessions that moth and rust will destroy, clinging to power and privilege whenever we can. Set us free from greed and fear. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Teach us to trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer. Amen.

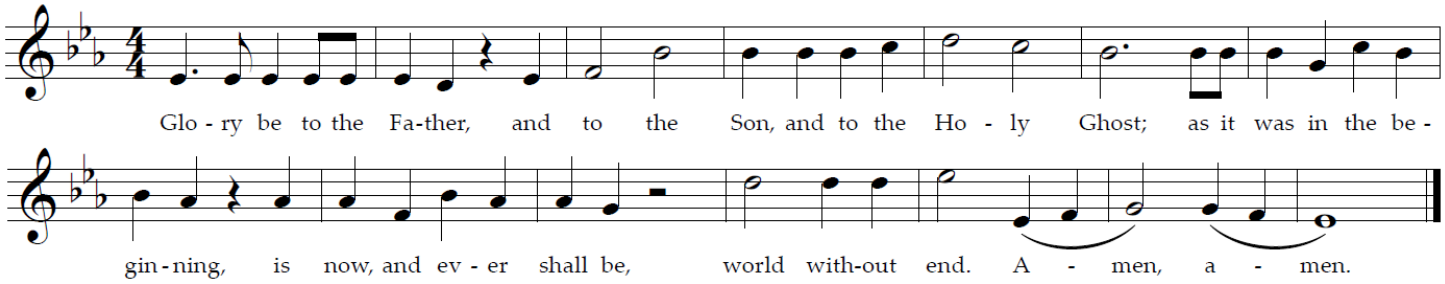
Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition

Kyrie Eleison Lord, Have Mercy Schubert



Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response (#581)** Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)



Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Stewardship Mimi Bauer, PCOC Financial Administrator

Fellowship of Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson Matthew 21: 33-46 page 803 of the pew Bible

Sermon "Bending Towards Justice" Dr. Zieman

Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Simple Gifts (9:00) Mark Hayes
Traveler, Are You Passing Through? (11:10) Benjamin Cornelis

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elders will serve you in the pews. All baptized Christians are invited to partake.
We ask that you hold on to the piece of bread or the cup until all have been served, so that we may partake as one body.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

From north and south, from east and west, we come:

God's people, called to the Table where simple grace nourishes us.

From down the street, and across our city, to around the world, today we are invited to a joyful feast, hosted by the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

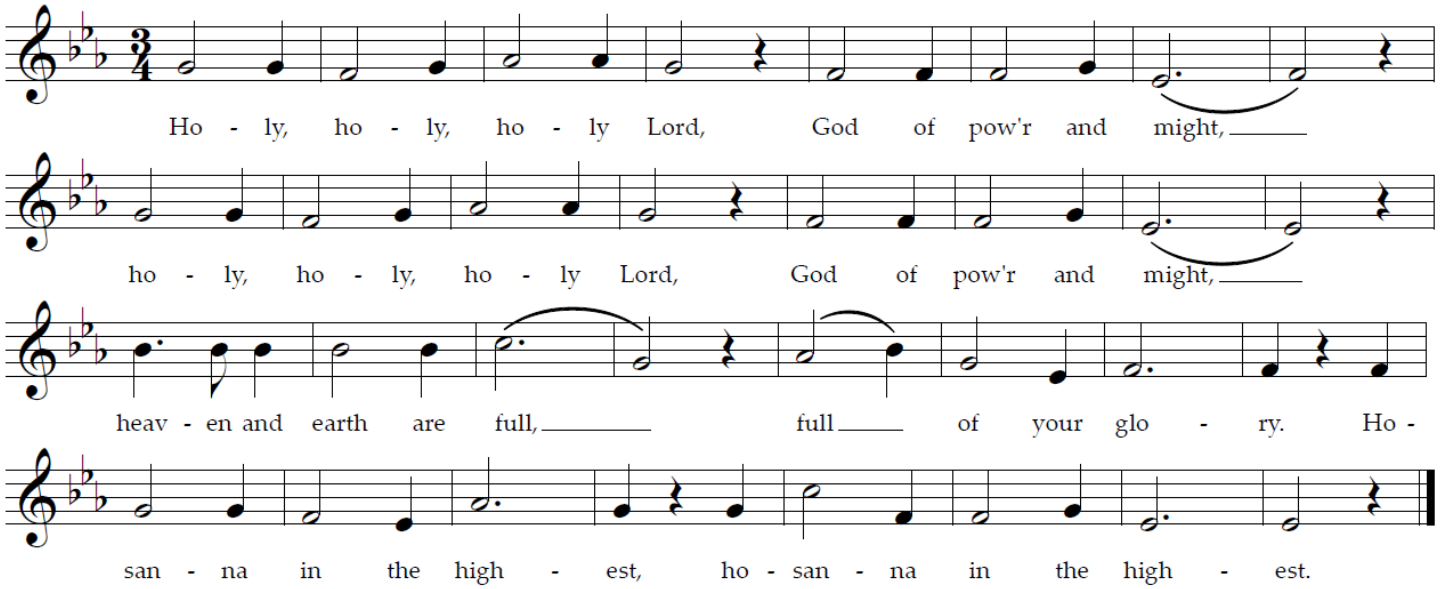
From every class, every race, every status; from little ones, to youth and parents, to elders with overflowing hearts:

God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 54-55

I believe that the Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member. The communion of saints - believers one and all—as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and cheerfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

***Sanctus (#562)** Holy, Holy, Holy SANCTUS (Schubert)



Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Serving of the Bread *A pastor will walk down the center aisle with gluten–free bread.*

Anthem	What Wondrous Love Is This? (9:00)	Joel Raney
	The Meditations of My Heart (11:10)	Elaine Hagenberg

Serving of the Cup of the New Covenant

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)
Majestic and eternal God, you have fed us with the bread of life and satisfied us with the cup of salvation. As we rise from this table, may we remember its expanse, and our connection to our siblings in Christ around the globe. Make us instruments of your peace and messengers of your love in thought, word, and deed. Make us one with you and all of creation through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn of Dedication #318**	In Christ There Is No East or West	ST. PETER

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**	Fanfare in A-flat Major	Charles Ore

Serving in Ministry Today

Music	9:00	Kathy Leach, piano; Mark Kanitz, organ
	11:10	Alleluia Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ
Elders serving Communion	9:00	Libby Whitlow, Laurie Kerr, Tim and Brenda Graumann, Patti and John Sparks, George Morgan, Sue Freyer, Marsha and Gary Marron
	11:10	Josh Murray, Darold Bauer, Pam Otto, Kristine Goodman, Ed Leach, Julie Driftmier, Julie Buehler, Neal Hubbard, Mike Howland, Mark Mathia
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster	
Ushers	9:00	Brad Burch, Captain; Tim and Dawn Zimmerman, Cheri Carpenter
	11:10	Dave Berry, Captain; Kim Banat, Aaron Fettig, Alta Empkey
Greeters	9:00	North Door: Doug Larson — Welcome Center Door: Michael Pirnie
	11:10	North Door: Nancy Koehler — Welcome Center Door: Charles and Ruth Madison
Information Center	9:00	Kathy Nickel — 11:10 Karen Saunders

Coffee Host

Staff

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min.	Pastor, Head of Staff	marshall@pcoc.us
Rev. Joshua Garry, M.Div.	Associate Pastor	josh@pcoc.us
Kristi Treu, M.A. Music	Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts	kristi@pcoc.us
Heather Berry	Christian Education Director	heather@pcoc.us
Mimi Bauer	Financial Administrator	mimi@pcoc.us
Gary Marron	Facilities Manager	gmarron.51@outlook.com
Christian Fritz	Communications Coordinator	communications@pcoc.us
Mark Kanitz	Organist	mark@pcoc.us
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

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Announcements

For the week of October 4, 2026

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 4 – World Communion Sunday
9:00 Worship with Communion
10:00 Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School
11:10 Worship with Communion
12:00 JHF Zoo Outing
4:30 Vesper Concert featuring PROJECT Trio
4:45 SHF Fun & Games

Monday, October 5
9 & 11 Music and Movement
10:00 Tai Chi
6:00 Worship and Music Committee
6:30 Building and Grounds Committee

Tuesday, October 6
7:00 Men's Bible Study
9:30 Staff Meeting
11:30 49ers at Wheatfields
1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
4:00 Fellowship & Hospitality Committee

Wednesday, October 7
5:15 Children's Choir
5:15 Credo Choir
5:50 Chamber Singers
6:00 Cornerstone Dinner
6:30 Confirmation Class
6:50 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, October 8
9 & 11 Music and Movement
10:00 Tai Chi
11:30 Educator's Lunch & Meeting
12:00 Serve Lunch at Omaha Street School
7:00 Digital Media Committee

Sunday, October 11
9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 "Falling Upward" Class
10:00 Children's and Youth Sunday School
11:10 Worship
12:15 New Member Discussion
2:00 Pageant Rehearsal
4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
5:00 Anxious Generation Class
4:45 JHF/SHF Blankets and Bible Study with Marshall

Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.
Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m.
Office Hours: 9:00 to 4:30 Monday-Friday

Today is World Communion Sunday. The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. World Communion Sunday is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 and was adopted as a denominational practice in 1936. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world.

Joys and Concerns.
Flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Dave and Heather Berry in memory of Marina Aiello, Dave's mom.

Vesper Concerts' Annual Outdoor Concert is today at 4:30.
Join us for a concert featuring PROJECT Trio! Bring your appetite and your lawn chairs or blankets. Food will be available for purchase beginning at 4:00 p.m. from The Corndog Company!



New Member Discussion is next Sunday, October 11.
If you are interested in joining the church, please attend our next New Member Discussion, following the 11:10 worship service on Sunday, October 11 in the Welcome Center. The discussion will last about an hour, and a light lunch will be served. Sign up online or call the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

2nd Grade Bibles on October 11
Next Sunday, October 11 at 11:10, our second graders will receive their Deep Blue Kids Bible. We hope you will join us in celebrating that morning. If you are the parent of a second grader and did not receive a letter in the mail from Heather, please contact her.

American Red Cross

Thank you for participating in the Deacons' Blood Drive last Sunday.
Together, we donated 16 units of blood!

Siena Francis House Servers Needed – next Sunday, October 11 from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. PCOC has the dinner shift on the 2nd Sunday of every month at Siena Francis House. We need at least 6 volunteers. Please consider giving your time to this mission. Questions? Contact Keith Allen.



2026 Stewardship Campaign. As Presbyterian Church of the Cross begins its 2027 Stewardship Campaign, we celebrate the faithful generations who built the congregation we know today. Through their worship, service, teaching, music, generosity, and care, they created a legacy that continues to strengthen our church. Our theme, Legacy Forward, calls us to honor that heritage while supporting today's ministry and preparing for tomorrow. Annual gifts make worship, Christian education, music, mission, outreach, and congregational care possible. Every contribution helps PCOC share God's love and serve our neighbors. As Psalm 145:4 reminds us, "One generation shall laud your works to another." This fall, consider what you have received through PCOC, how your generosity makes a difference today, and what you hope to make possible for future generations. Together, we can carry PCOC's legacy forward with gratitude, generosity, and faith. – The 2027 Stewardship Committee



Active Minds in October. We are looking forward to having guest teachers Brenda Graumann and Darold Bauer help us learn/review the card game North Dakota Whist. All are welcome! Every Tuesday in the lower level Great Room, 1:30-4:00 pm. Bring a sweater. Feel free to join us after Bible Study.

49ers on Tuesday, October 6

Our program for Tuesday, October 6, 2026, will be a dynamic trio of Presbyterian Church of the Cross volunteers, Sandi Stuckey, Charlene Meyer and Frank McMullen. These three individuals volunteer at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, as one of their activities. They will enlighten us as to some of the many volunteer opportunities available for anyone interested in getting involved in our community. I look forward to their fun and informative presentation. The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott, or Judy Sundberg. We also have a sign-up sheet at the Information Center.

Office Help Needed! With Annika's departure, we are in search of a part-time office Administrative Assistant, working Mon-Fri, 9:00 – 1:00. Duties include general clerical, maintaining church records, and supporting the worship services through printing bulletins and sending email reminders to volunteers. For a detailed job description, or to find out more, contact either Marshall Zieman or Jim Miller, Personnel Committee Moderator.

Presbyterian Men. On Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 am, PCOC men are invited to attend a continental breakfast and program in the Welcome Center featuring Jay Miralles, a co-founder of the 50 Mile March Foundation, Inc. He will speak about how this nonprofit directly assists veterans facing mental health challenges and homelessness through the annual fund-raising 50-mile walk from Lincoln to Omaha since 2020. Please sign-up to attend this uplifting mission at the Information Desk by Sunday, October 11th. Invite someone to attend with you. Thanks to Lloyd Meyer for obtaining the speaker. Husker football is at Oregon & volleyball at home vs. Purdue. Contact Jon Boomgaarden with questions.

GALS Crocktoberfest October 18 Crocks, Caring & Fall Fun!

Something delicious is simmering, and you're invited! Get ready for a cozy gathering of GALS filled with crockpot creations, friendship, a little fun, and a special way to share the love this fall. Bring your appetite and your giving spirit! More details are cooking… so be sure to check your email for all the delicious details!

PCOC Book Group on October 21

We will meet October 21 in The Courtyard Room from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact Charlotte Hubbard.

Trunk or Treat, October 25, 3 p.m.



Join us in Fellowship Hall and on the east lawn for food, games, and trunk or treating. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bucket for your treats. We encourage everyone in the congregation to participate by hosting a trunk. All you must do is decide on a theme, decorate your vehicle, dress up, and provide treats or toys to hand out to the children. It's that easy and so much fun! Help us make this the best Trunk or Treat ever for our church family. If you plan to host a trunk, please let Heather know so she can communicate directions for the event. We are also accepting candy donations. Please donate individually wrapped candy. You may drop them in the bin in the Lobby.

Fabric Donations Needed

We welcome your donations of red, green, white, and cream-colored fabric, solid colors or prints. We need pieces that are at least 3"x3." Please put them in the bin in the Lobby. Thanks!

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday mornings – Falling Upward, led by Keith Allen
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 27 – December 27

In ***Falling Upward***, Richard Rohr (A Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation) takes us on a journey to give us an understanding of how the "Falling" in life – the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves – are actually stepping-stones to the "Upwards" in life – the spiritual growth that the second half of our life has in store for us. Join us this September for a 13-week study of **Falling Upward** with Richard Rohr as our guide. Led by Keith Allen, the class will follow Rohr's book, chapter by chapter, and will also incorporate reflections, questions and experiential exercises that have been pulled from Rohr's companion journal that accompanies the book. Suggested Book Donation $15.

Sunday afternoons – The Anxious Generation, led by Quinn McGuire
Sundays at 4:45 p.m. from September 13 – October 25

Together we will explore Jonathan Haidt's research on the rise of anxiety, depression, and loneliness among children and adolescents while discussing how Christian families can intentionally cultivate resilient, connected, faith-filled children in a digital world. This study is designed to encourage conversation—not debate—and to leave each session with practical ideas families can begin using immediately. Register Online.
Suggested Book Donation $15.

Tuesday Bible Studies, led by Dr. Marshall Zieman.
Join us at 7:00 am (Men) or 1:00 pm (Everyone) for our current study of 2 Corinthians. We meet in the Welcome Center. Just bring your favorite Bible and an enquiring mind!

Wednesday evenings – **The Acts of the Apostles**, led by Dr. Kirk Ryckman at 6:30 in Room 15.

Wednesday evenings – **Genesis**, led by Rev. Josh Garry at 6:30 in the Courtyard Classroom.

And Coming in November…

Remembrance Service is Sunday, November 1.



Join us on All Saints' Day at 4:00 pm. in the sanctuary for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died. The names of those we are remembering will be read out at the service and there will be the opportunity to light a candle.

Fall Clean-Up is Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to Noon.



All members are invited and welcome to participate! Bring your garden gloves, pruners, rakes, shovels, and trash barrels! If you have a chain saw that would be helpful this year as well. We will rake leaves and debris to spruce up our landscaped areas to prepare our grounds for the winter season ahead. TREATS, juice and coffee will be available for fellowship. Your help will be very much appreciated! Thank you!



Presbyterian Men's Classic Shrimp Boil Dinner & Fundraiser is Sunday, November 8.

Presbyterian Men are once again hosting an old-fashioned shrimp boil on Sunday, November 8 in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm. Come and enjoy scrumptious 'JUMBO' fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins! The suggested donation is only $20 per person or more if you wish. Sign up and pay in advance (checks to Presbyterian Men) at the Information Desk by Sunday, November 1. Questions? Contact Jim Miller or Frank McMullen.

'Tis the Season SHF Fundraiser Lunch is November 15.



All ages – the young *and* the young at heart – are invited to join us for this SHF fundraiser on Sunday, November 15 at Noon. This continues to be one of SHF's biggest fundraising events of the year, supporting their summer mission trip. Next year they're going to Rimrock Camp in Rapid, South Dakota. Come for lunch and stay for crafts! We're introducing activities that encourage full family participation. There will be one shut in craft, one family craft, and three other crafts. Each one has been thoughtfully chosen so everyone can enjoy creating together. We hope to see all generations join us for this special fundraiser. Please be sure to register online by November 1 to reserve your crafts and lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Heather.

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